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"Art is science made clear."



Members of the Worcester Model Railroad Club work together on building a structure for a track at their new home in Dudley.

Workin' on the railroad . . .

LOCAL LOCOMOTIVE CLUB MAKES MOVE TO DUDLEY

BY HADLEY ROBINSON
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

DUDLEY — On a Tuesday night in a room on the ground floor of the old Steven's Linen building on Schofield Avenue, at least 20 people are hard at work on a project — hammering, sawing, wiring and drawing out plans. This is not a new store opening and nobody is getting paid. It is a club of the Worcester Model Railroaders, who have recently moved to a new location and are starting from scratch to build a model railroad track, just for the love of trains.

This 35-member model railroad club designs a structure called a layout that holds the 1.5-inch-wide train tracks. Buildings are constructed along the tracks and a backdrop will be painted blue. Several routes are planned, like one from Worcester to Boston and Worcester to Providence.

"In real life, trains have a purpose. They go

from A to B," club president, Peter Smith of Oxford said. "We make up trains with a function and a purpose. We mirror real life."

Once the tracks are built and wired, there will be 30 different routes and purposes. Members may run a train from Worcester to Boston and have to stop to deliver boxcars to three different towns along the way.

The trains and routes are computer controlled and run with a device the size of a cellular telephone that is connected to a chip in the engine of the trains.

The club was started in 1946 and has been at various locations in Worcester. The area they have been renting most recently was in the basement of a water mill on James Street in Worcester and had no running water or security. There were issues with mold and leaking.

Members were looking for a new spot in their price range, but weren't having any luck until

they visited a space in Steven's Linen.

"I walked in the door and fell in love with the place," said Smith.

The new space has an alarm system, sprinkler system, running water, handicapped accessibility and is overall a cleaner spot.

One member, Robert Cazanovicz, is in a wheelchair and says he appreciates the new space. The new layout will have a small ramp that Cazanovicz can wheel up on to have better access and view the trains while running them. In the old location, he had to get up and down stairs to go to meetings. "The guys are good about helping me out, but this is great here," he said.

According to Smith, they were planning on salvaging whatever they could from the old lay-

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Workin' on the railroad

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out of model tracks and buildings, but they knew they would have at least 50 percent damage. Though they were interested in starting anew, the club, run completely on member dues, didn't have the cash.

A member decided instead of moving everything and damaging much of the old layout, he wanted to buy it. The member and the Board of Directors agreed on the cost, and the club has new goals and new enthusiasm.

Ted Jensen is a skilled carpenter who has been with the club about six years.

"It's really nice to be able to start with a clean slate and correct the hundreds of mistakes we had made on the other layout," Jensen said. "Everybody's excited about starting from scratch."

Jensen is the chairman of the Bench Work Committee and has worked on the design and supervises those constructing the layout. He

said the project is designed in such a way that those who are not skilled carpenters can still do the work.

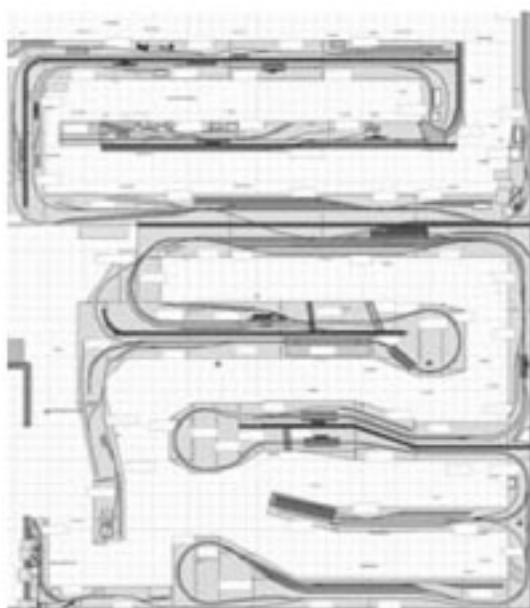
The members of the club vary in skills. Besides a handful of skilled carpenters, there are electricians, one former conductor for Amtrak and an engineer for tourist train lines.

"We're from all walks of life," Treasurer Ralph Kimball of Paxton said.

Kimball also said the move to Dudley has brought in about 10 new members. People from northern Connecticut are finding the new location more convenient as well as more southern Worcester County members.

The club is always looking for interested members and accepts both men and women as well as those under 18, who can be junior members with either a parent or member sponsor.

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A schematic of what the Worcester Model Railroad Club's completed track will look like upon completion.